IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant:	Carl Kaoru Sakamoto	**Appeal Brief**
Serial No.	10/777,293	
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Group Art Unit	3739	
Examiner	Matthew John Kasztejna	
Attorney Docket No.	700.002US01	
Title: LARYNGOSCOPE BLADE		

On July 19, 2007 Appellants filed a notice of appeal from the final rejection of claims 1-31 set forth in the Office Action mailed April 19, 2007. This Appeal Brief is accompanied by a fee in the amount of $ 250.00 as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(c).

1. **Real party in interest**

The real party in interest in the above-captioned application is the inventor, Carl Kaoru Sakamoto.

2. **Related appeals and interferences**

There are no other appeals or interferences known to the Appellants that will have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal.

3. **Status of claims**

Claims 1-31 were rejected in the Final Office Action mailed 4/19/2007. The rejection of claims 1-31 is the subject of the present Appeal.

4. **Status of amendments**

No amendment has been filed subsequent to the Office Action mailed 4/19/2007.

5. **Summary of claimed subject matter**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v), Applicant provides the following concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each independent claim with reference to the

specification by page and line number and to the drawings by reference number. Applicant submits that the citations to the specification and drawings are not intended to be exhaustive and that other support for the various claims may also be found throughout the specification and drawings.

A. Independent Claim 1

A laryngoscope blade 500 of Claim 1 includes a main blade portion 502, a blade tip 411, a first tongue displacement plate 512, a second tongue displacement plate 412 and a blade base 508. Figure 5, amended Paragraphs [0027] and [0028], page 8, line 8 through page 9, line 13. The main blade portion 502 has a posterior surface 510, a distal end 504 and proximal end 514. The main blade portion 502 is relatively straight between the distal end 504 and the proximal end 514. Figure 5. The blade tip 411 extends from the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. Page 8, lines 11-12. The blade tip 411 having a width that is flared wider in a first direction than a width of the main blade portion 402. Figure 4, page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 1. See also page 8, lines 23-24. The blade tip 411 is at a select angle 506 with relation to the posterior surface 510 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5, page 8, lines 13-18. The first tongue displacement plate 512 is coupled to the main blade portion 502 along a length 409 of the blade 500. Figures 4 and 5. The second tongue displacement plate 412 extends from the first tongue displacement plate 512 in a direction that is away from the main blade portion 502. Figure 4. The second tongue displacement plate 412 and the first tongue displacement plate 512 are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue during use of the laryngoscope, the second tongue displacement plate 412 has at least one rounded corner. Figure 4, lines 24-26 of page 8. The blade base 508 is coupled to the proximal end 514 of the blade 502. Figure 5. The relatively straight main blade portion 502 extends from the blade base 508 at generally a right angle. Figure 5.

B. Independent claim 13

A laryngoscope blade 500 of claim 13 includes a main blade portion 502, a first tongue displacement plate 512, a second tongue displacement plate 412 and a blade base 508. Figure 5, amended Paragraphs [0027] and [0028], page 8, line 8 through page 9,

line 13. The main blade portion 502 has a length defined by a distal end 504 and a proximal end 514. Figure 5. The main blade 502 is generally straight along its length. Figure 5. The first tongue displacement plate 512 has a first end extending from a first side of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5. The first tongue displacement plate 512 further extends along a select length of the main blade portion 502 that is proximate the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5. The second tongue displacement plate 412 extending from a second end of the first tongue displacement plate 512 in a direction away from the main displacement blade 502. Figures 4 and 5. The first tongue displacement plate 512 and the second tongue displacement plate 412 are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue. Page 8, Lines 24-26. The blade base 508 is coupled to the proximal end 514 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5. The blade base 508 is adapted to be selectively coupled to a laryngoscope handle. The generally straight length of the main blade portion 502 extends from the blade base 508 such that the generally straight length of the main blade portion 502 is generally perpendicular to a laryngoscope handle 708 coupled to the blade base 508. Figures 5, 7 and 8, see also lines 3-5 on page 6 which discusses the connection of a standard laryngoscope blade to a blade base.

C. Independent claim 22

A laryngoscope blade 500 of claim 23 includes a main blade portion 502, a blade tip 411, a first tongue displacement plate 512, a second tongue displacement plate 412 and a blade base 508. Figure 5, amended Paragraphs [0027] and [0028], page 8, line 8 through page 9, line 13. The main blade portion 502 has a posterior surface 510, a distal end 504 and a proximal end 514. Figure 5, lines 9-16, page 8. The posterior surface 510 has a length that is generally straight from the proximal end to the distal end. Figure 5. The blade tip 411 extends from the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5, page 8, lines 13-16. The blade tip 411 further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion 402 from a first side of the main blade portion 402. Figure 4, page 7, line 29 through page 8, line 1. The blade tip 411 further extends from the posterior surface 510 of the main blade portion 502 at a select angle 506. Figure 5, page 8, lines 14-19.

The first tongue displacement plate 512 extends from a second side of the main blade portion 502 at generally a right angle. Figures 5 and 6. The first tongue displacement portion 512 further extends along a select length of the main blade portion 502 proximate the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5, page 8, lines 26-28. The second tongue displacement plate 412 extends from the first displacement plate 512 at generally a right angle. Figures 5 and 6. The second displacement plate 412 further extends from the first displacement plate 512 in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion 502. Figure 4. The second tongue displacement 412 plate further has a surface that is positioned in an opposite direction as the posterior surface 510 of the main blade 502, the surface of the second tongue displacement 412 plate forming a plane that is generally parallel with an axis formed by the length of the posterior surface 510. Figure 5. The blade base 508 is coupled to the proximal end 514 of the main blade portion 502, wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface 510 extends from the blade base 514 at generally a right angle. Figure 5.

D. Independent Claim 27.

A laryngoscope of claim 27 includes a laryngoscope handle 708 and a laryngoscope blade 500. Figures 7 and 5. The laryngoscope blade 500 includes a main blade portion 502, a blade tip 411, a first tongue displacement plate 512, a second tongue displacement plate 412 and a blade base 508. Figure 5, amended Paragraphs [0027] and [0028], page 8, line 8 through page 9, line 13. The main blade portion 502 has an posterior surface 510, a distal end 504 and a proximal end 514. Figure 5. The posterior surface 510 has a length that is generally straight from the proximal end 514 up to the distal end 504. Figure 5. The blade tip 411 extends from the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. The blade tip 411 further extends beyond a width of the main blade portion 402 from a first side of the main blade portion 402. Figure 4. The blade tip 411 further extends from the posterior surface 510 of the main blade portion 502 at a select angle 506. Figure 5, page 8, lines 13-18. The first tongue displacement plate 512 extends from a second side of the main blade portion 502 at generally a right angle. Figures 5 and 6. The first tongue displacement portion 512 further extends along a select

length of the main blade portion 502 proximate the distal end 504 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5, page 8, lines 26-28. The second tongue displacement plate 412 extends from the first tongue displacement plate 512 at generally a right angle. Figures 5 and 6. The second tongue displacement plate 412 further extends from the first tongue displacement plate 512 in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion 502. Figure 4. The blade base 508 extends from the proximal end 514 of the main blade portion 502. Figure 5. The blade base 508 is adapted to be selectively coupled to the laryngoscope handle 708 wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface 510 extends from the blade base 508 such that the generally straight length of the posterior surface 510 is generally perpendicular to the coupled laryngoscope blade 708. Figures 5 and 7.

E. Independent claim 28

A method of using a laryngoscope is provided in claim 28. Figures 7 and 8, Paragraphs [0030] and [0031], page 10, line 1 through page 11, line 2. The method includes inserting a substantially straight laryngoscope blade into a patient's oral cavity. Figure 7, page 10 lines 6-7 and 18-19. The substantially straight blade 702 extends generally in a perpendicular direction relating to a handle of the laryngoscope 708. Figures 7 and 8. Displacing a patient's tongue (c) with first and second displacement plates 512 and 412 that are located proximate a distal end 504 of the laryngoscope blade 500. Page 10, lines 7-10 and 20-22. Wherein the second displacement plate 412 extends from the first displacement plate 512 in a direction that is away from the substantially straight laryngoscope blade 402. Figure 4. Positioning a proximal end 514 of the laryngoscope blade 502 proximate a patients upper teeth. Figures 7 and 8. Exposing the patient's aditus of larynx (E). page 10, lines 10-12 and 23-25.

6. Grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal

Whether claims 1-31 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

7. **Argument**

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

i. The Applicable Law

35 U.S.C. § 103 provides in relevant part:

Conditions for patentability, non-obvious subject matter.

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identicallay disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

"[A] combination of familiar elements according to known methods is likely to be obvious when it does no more than yield predictable results." KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550U.S. ___, 2007 WL 1237837, (2007) slip opinion at 13. "[A] court must ask whether the improvement is more than the predictable use of prior elements according to their established functions. Id. The Supreme Court in *KSR* further reaffirmed the expansive and flexible approach to determining obviousness as set out in the *Grahm* as discussed below and suggested three considerations often necessary to determine a reason to combine. The first is interrelated teachings of multiple patents (i.e. teaching and suggestion in the prior art). The second is the effects of demands known to the design community or present in the marketplace and the third is the background knowledge possessed by a person having ordinary skill in the art with ordinary creativity, insight and common sense KSR, 550 U.S. slip op. at 14.

"The ultimate determination…whether an invention is or not obvious is a legal conclusion based on underlying factual inquiries including (1) the scope and content of the prior art; (2) the level of ordinary skill in the prior art; (3) the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art; and (4) the objective evidence of nonobviousness." *In re Dembiczak*, 175 F.3d 994, 998, 50 USPQ2d 1614, 1616 (1999) (citing *Graham v. John Deere Co.,* 383 U.S. 1, 17-18, 148 USPQ 459, 467 (1966)).

When applying 35 U.S.C. §103(a), the claimed invention must be considered as a whole; the references must be considered as a whole and must suggest the desirability and thus the obviousness of making the combination; the references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight afforded by the claimed invention and a reasonable expectation of success is the standard with which obviousness is determined. *Hodosh v. Block Drug Co., Inc.,* 786 F.2d 1136, 1143 n.5, 229 USPQ 182, 187 n.5 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

As discussed above, the use of the teaching, suggesting or motivation (TSM) test captures helpful insight in determining obvious but a court errs where it transforms the insight into a rigid rule limiting the obviousness analysis. KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550U.S. ___, 2007 WL 1237837 (2007).

The teaching or suggestions to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in the applicant's disclosure. MPEP 2143 citing *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

ii. Rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

Independent claim 1 is as follows:

1. A laryngoscope blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and proximal end, the main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end;

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip having a width that is flared wider in a first direction than a width of the main blade portion, the blade tip further being at a select angle with relation to the posterior surface of the main blade portion;

a first tongue displacement plate coupled to the main blade portion along a length of the blade;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is away from the main blade portion, wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue during use of the laryngoscope, the second tongue displacement plate having at least one rounded corner; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the blade, wherein the relatively straight main blade portion extends from the blade base at generally a right angle.

The Examiner erred in rejecting claim 1 under section 103 and the Applicant respectfully requests a reversal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 1. One of the novel features included in claim 1 is a laryngoscope blade having "main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end" in combination with "a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is away from the main blade portion." As discussed, in the present application, commonly used laryngoscope blades generally come in two different types. A Miller blade that has a straight main blade portion with a second tongue plate that curls under the generally straight main blade portion and a Macintosh that has a curved main blade portion and a second tongue plate that extends away from the main blade portion.

The Examiner in the Final Office Action asserted that the Cartledge et al. reference teaches "the main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end." This however, is incorrect. The main blade portion of the laryngoscope blade of the Cartledge et al. reference is curved like a Macintosh blade. Please see Figures 3 and 4 of the Cartledge et al. reference. Like the traditional Macintosh blade the second tongue displacement of the Cartlledge et al. reference extends away from the main blade portion. See Figure 3 of the Cartledge et al. reference. When asked to explain where the Cartledge et al. reference teaches a relatively straight main blade portion during a telephonic interview of January 22, 2007 the Examiner stated that if you viewed the blade at a particular direction (down the barrel of a handle) it would appear to be straight. However, viewing an object in a particular direction so the object appears to convey a particular form does not change the actual

shape of the object. Claim 1 claims the actual shape of the main blade portion being "relatively straight." Figure 5 of the present application illustrates the "relatively straight" main blade portion 502 and proximal 514 and distal end 514 and 504. Since the blade in the Cartledge et al. reference is curved, it does not teach the "main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end."

Nor would it be obvious to combine "main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end" with "a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is away from the main blade portion," as is claimed in claim 1 of the present application. As discussed above, the blade in the Cartledge reference is curved with second tongue displacement of extending away from the main blade portion, like a Macintosh blade. The Sakamoto reference illustrates a straight blade with a second tongue plate that curls under the generally straight main blade portion like a Miller blade and the Roberts reference illustrates a blade that can be formed to be straight or curved. Nothing in the Cartledge reference nor the Sakamoto reference suggests or provide motivations to modify the references to come up with what is claimed in claim 1. That is, nothing in either of these references would suggest that a modification of what has traditionally been used for decades in the art was needed. Moreover, the addition of the Roberts reference does not cure this defect. The Roberts reference merely relates to a single laryngoscope that can be shaped the way the practitioner wants it, curved or straight. However, no tongue displacement plates are used. Hence, the Roberts reference does not teach or suggest the use of tongue displacement plates. The aspects of a "main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end" with "a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is away from the main blade portion," as is claimed in claim 1 of the present application is an un-predictable result. That is, it would be predicable to one skilled in the art that a curved blade would have a tongue displacement plate extending away from the main blade portion and that a straight blade would have a tongue displacement plate curved under the main blade portion as is traditionally done but the arrangement as set out in claim 1 is not predictable and hence patentable.

iii. Rejection of independent claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

Independent claim 13 is as follows:

13. A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a length defined by a distal end and a proximal end, the main blade being generally straight along its length;

a first tongue displacement plate having a first end extending from a first side of the main blade portion, the first tongue displacement plate further extending along a select length of the main blade portion that is proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from a second end of the first tongue displacement plate in a direction away from the main displacement blade, the first tongue displacement plate and the second tongue displacement plate being adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base adapted to be selectively coupled to a laryngoscope handle, wherein the generally straight length of the main blade portion extends from the blade base such that the generally straight length of the main blade portion is generally perpendicular to a laryngoscope handle coupled to the blade base.

The Examiner erred in rejecting claim 13 under section 103 and the Applicant respectfully requests a reversal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 13. Claim 13 includes the aspects "a main blade portion having a length defined by a distal end and a proximal end, the main blade being generally straight along its length" with "a second tongue displacement plate extending from a second end of the first tongue displacement plate in a direction away from the main displacement blade." These aspects are similar to the novel aspects of claim 1. Hence the arguments put forth regarding claim 1 also apply

to claim 13. That is, none of the art references cited teach or suggest the aspects as set out above. Moreover, the claimed aspects provide an un-predictable result in light of the traditional laryngoscope designs disclosed in the cited art.

iv. Rejection of independent claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

Independent claim 22 is as follows:

22. A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end to the distal end;

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle;

a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second displacement plate further extending from the first displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion, the second tongue displacement plate further having a surface that is positioned in an opposite direction as the posterior surface of the main blade, the surface of the second tongue displacement plate forming a plane that is generally parallel with an axis formed by the length of the posterior surface; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface extends from the blade base at generally a right angle.

The Examiner erred in rejecting claim 22 under section 103 and the Applicant respectfully requests a reversal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 22. Claim 22 includes the aspects "a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end to the distal end" with "a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second displacement plate further extending from the first displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion." These aspects are similar to the novel aspects of claim 1. Hence the arguments put forth regarding claim 1 also apply to claim 22. That is, none of the art references cited teach or suggest the aspects as set out above. Moreover, the claimed aspects provide an un-predictable result in light of the traditional laryngoscope designs disclosed in the art references.

In addition, claim 22 further includes the aspects of "the second tongue displacement plate further having a surface that is positioned in an opposite direction as the posterior surface of the main blade, the surface of the second tongue displacement plate forming a plane that is generally parallel with an axis formed by the length of the posterior surface." None of the cited references teach or suggest this aspect in combination with the other aspects of claim 22. Moreover, the Examiner has failed to address this aspect in the rejection of claim 22.

v. Rejection of independent claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

Independent claim 27 is as follows:

27. A laryngoscope comprising:

a laryngoscope handle; and

a laryngoscope blade, the laryngoscope blade including,

a main blade portion having an posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end up to the distal end,

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle,

a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion,

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second tongue displacement plate further extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion, and

a blade base extending from the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base is adapted to be selectively coupled to the laryngoscope handle wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface extends from the blade base such that the generally straight length of the posterior surface is generally perpendicular to the coupled laryngoscope blade.

The Examiner erred in rejecting claim 27 under section 103 and the Applicant respectfully requests a reversal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 27. Claim 27 includes the aspects "a main blade portion having an posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end up to the distal end" with "the second tongue displacement plate further extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion." These aspects are similar to the novel aspects of claim 1. Hence the arguments put forth regarding claim 1 also apply to claim 27. That is, none of the art references cited teach or suggest the aspects as set out above. Moreover, the claimed aspects provide an un-predictable result in light of the traditional laryngoscope designs disclosed in the cited art.

vi. Rejection of independent claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,425 to Cartledge et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,095,972 to Sakamoto in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,406,941 to Roberts.

Independent claim 28 is as follows:

28. A method of using a laryngoscope, the method comprising:

inserting a substantially straight laryngoscope blade into a patient's oral cavity, wherein the substantially straight blade extends generally in a perpendicular direction relating to a handle of the laryngoscope;

displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates that are located proximate a distal end of the laryngoscope blade, wherein the second displacement plate extends from the first displacement plate in a direction that is away from the substantially straight laryngoscope blade;

positioning a proximal end of the laryngoscope blade proximate a patients upper teeth; and

exposing the patient's aditus of larynx.

The Examiner erred in rejecting claim 28 under section 103 and the Applicant respectfully requests a reversal of the Examiner's rejection of claim 28. Claim 28 includes the aspects "inserting a substantially straight laryngoscope blade into a patient's oral cavity" with "displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates that are located proximate a distal end of the laryngoscope blade, wherein the second displacement plate extends from the first displacement plate in a direction that is away from the substantially straight laryngoscope blade." These aspects are similar to the novel aspects of claim 1. Hence the arguments put forth regarding claim 1 also apply to claim 28. That is, none of the art references cited teach or suggest the aspects as set out above. Moreover, the claimed aspects provide an un-predictable result in light of the traditional laryngoscope designs disclosed in the cited art.

Respectfully submitted,

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CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A laryngoscope blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and proximal end, the main blade portion being relatively straight between the distal end and the proximal end;

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip having a width that is flared wider in a first direction than a width of the main blade portion, the blade tip further being at a select angle with relation to the posterior surface of the main blade portion;

a first tongue displacement plate coupled to the main blade portion along a length of the blade;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is away from the main blade portion, wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue during use of the laryngoscope, the second tongue displacement plate having at least one rounded corner; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the blade, wherein the relatively straight main blade portion extends from the blade base at generally a right angle.

2. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the select angle is an obtuse angle.

3. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein select angle is about 165 degrees.

4. The laryngoscope of claim 1 further comprising:

the blade base having a bottom portion, the bottom portion having a channel; and

the proximal end of the main blade portion being received in the channel of bottom portion of the blade base, wherein the main blade portion proximate the proximal end does not extend below the bottom portion of the blade base to allow clearance for a patient's teeth during use.

5. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate has a displacement length that is significantly shorter than a length of the main blade portion.

6. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the first tongue displacement plate extends generally at perpendicular angle from the main blade portion.

7. The laryngoscope of claim 1, further comprising:

the first tongue displacement plate having a first cutout portion proximate the proximal end of the blade to allow clearance of a patient's top teeth during use.

8. The laryngoscope of claim 7, further comprising:

the first tongue displacement plate having a second cut out portion approximate the distal end of the blade.

9. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate is generally extends from the first tongue displacement plate in the shape of a semi-circle.

10. The laryngoscope of the claim 1, further comprising:

the second tongue displacement plate extending generally at a perpendicular angle from the first tongue displacement plate.

11. The laryngoscope of claim 1 , wherein the second tongue displacement plate generally extends from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is opposite the first direction of the flared blade tip.

12. The laryngoscope of claim 1, wherein the second tongue displacement plate and the first tongue displacement plate are generally flat in shape.

13. A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a length defined by a distal end and a proximal end, the main blade being generally straight along its length;

a first tongue displacement plate having a first end extending from a first side of the main blade portion, the first tongue displacement plate further extending along a select length of the main blade portion that is proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from a second end of the first tongue displacement plate in a direction away from the main displacement blade, the first tongue displacement plate and the second tongue displacement plate being adapted to work together to displace a patient's tongue; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base adapted to be selectively coupled to a laryngoscope handle, wherein the generally straight length of the main blade portion extends from the blade base such that the generally straight length of the main blade portion is generally perpendicular to a laryngoscope handle coupled to the blade base.

14. The blade of claim 13, further comprising:

the blade base having a bottom portion, the bottom portion having a channel; and

the proximal end of the main blade portion being received in the channel of bottom portion of the blade base, wherein the main blade portion proximate the proximal end does not extend below the bottom portion of the blade base to allow clearance for a patient's teeth during use.

15. The blade of claim 13, wherein the length of the first tongue displacement plate is less then half the length of the main blade portion.

16. The blade of claim 13, wherein the first tongue displacement plate extends from the first side of the main blade portion at generally a perpendicular angle.

17. The blade of claim 13, wherein the second tongue displacement plate extends from the first tongue displacement plate at generally a perpendicular angle.

18. The blade of claim 13, further comprising:

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip flaring beyond the width of the main blade portion, wherein the greater width of the blade tip allows the width of the main blade to be made relatively thin.

19. The blade of claim 18, wherein the main blade portion.

wherein the second tongue displacement plate generally extends at a perpendicular angle from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is opposite the flared blade tip.

20. The blade of claim 18, wherein the blade tip flares wider than the main blade portion from a second side of the main blade portion.

21. The blade of claim 18, further comprising:

the main blade portion further having a posterior surface; and

the blade tip extending from the main blade portion at a select obtuse angle from the posterior surface of the main blade portion.

22. A laryngoscope blade, the blade comprising:

a main blade portion having a posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end to the distal end;

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle;

a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion;

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second displacement plate further extending from the first displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion, the second tongue displacement plate further having a surface that is positioned in an opposite direction as the posterior surface of the main blade, the surface of the second tongue displacement plate forming a plane that is generally parallel with an axis formed by the length of the posterior surface; and

a blade base coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface extends from the blade base at generally a right angle.

23. The blade of claim 22, wherein the first tongue displacement plate has a length that is less than ½ the length of the main blade portion.

24. The blade of claim 22, wherein the select angle between the blade tip and the posterior surface is an obtuse angle.

25. The blade of claim 22, wherein the select angle between the blade tip and the posterior surface is approximately 165 degrees.

26. The blade of claim 22, further comprising:

the blade base has a channel; and

a blade connection portion coupled to the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade connection portion received in the channel in the blade base.

27. A laryngoscope comprising:

a laryngoscope handle; and

a laryngoscope blade, the laryngoscope blade including,

a main blade portion having an posterior surface, a distal end and a proximal end, the posterior surface having a length that is generally straight from the proximal end up to the distal end,

a blade tip extending from the distal end of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending beyond a width of the main blade portion from a first side of the main blade portion, the blade tip further extending from the posterior surface of the main blade portion at a select angle,

a first tongue displacement plate extending from a second side of the main blade portion at generally a right angle, the first tongue displacement portion further extending along a select length of the main blade portion proximate the distal end of the main blade portion,

a second tongue displacement plate extending from the first tongue displacement plate at generally a right angle, the second tongue displacement plate further extending from the first tongue displacement plate in a direction that is generally away from the main blade portion, and

a blade base extending from the proximal end of the main blade portion, the blade base is adapted to be selectively coupled to the laryngoscope handle wherein the generally straight length of the posterior surface extends from the blade base such that the generally straight length of the posterior surface is generally perpendicular to the coupled laryngoscope blade.

28. A method of using a laryngoscope, the method comprising:

inserting a substantially straight laryngoscope blade into a patient's oral cavity, wherein the substantially straight blade extends generally in a perpendicular direction relating to a handle of the laryngoscope;

displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates that are located proximate a distal end of the laryngoscope blade, wherein the second

displacement plate extends from the first displacement plate in a direction that is away from the substantially straight laryngoscope blade;

positioning a proximal end of the laryngoscope blade proximate a patients upper teeth; and

exposing the patient's aditus of larynx.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein exposing the patient's aditus of the larynx further comprises:

lifting the epiglottis with a blade tip that extends from a distal end of the laryngoscope blade, the blade tip being flared wider than the laryngoscope blade.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein exposing the patient's aditus of the larynx further comprises:

placing a blade tip that extends from a distal end of the laryngoscope blade in a patient's vallecula, the blade tip being flared wider than the laryngoscope blade; and

shifting the entire glottis structure anteriorly with the blade tip.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein displacing a patient's tongue with first and second displacement plates further comprises:

engaging the patient's tongue with the first and second tongue displacement plates; and

applying force to patient's tongue in a lateral direction with the first and second displacement plates.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

There is nothing to present in the Evidence Appendix.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

There is nothing to present in the Related Proceedings Appendix.